

IV.

Description of a Zoophyte, commonly found about the Coasts of Singapore Island,—with a Plate.

BY MAJOR GENERAL THOMAS HARDWICKE, F. R. L. & A. S.

Read 13th November, 1819.

THIS subject belongs to the Genus *Spongia*, to the class *Vermes*—and is of the order *Zoophytes*.—From its peculiar form, we propose to term it

SPONGIA PATERA.

ROOT.—Branching, the shoots of various thickness, from the size of a finger to 3 inches in diameter, slightly diverging, composed of earth, sand, and broken shells, and very fragile.

STEM.—Cylindrical, of the same cellular texture as the bowl, and about the same length, in circumference, pretty equal—from 15 to 17 inches diameter—surface porous.

inches - 3 feet 1 inch



CUP—OR BOWL.—Circular—and subconical, in diameter at the brim 17 inches, about the middle $12\frac{1}{2}$, and near the bottom 7 inches, capable of containing thirty six quarts of water: in substance corky—but non-elastic, made up of cells or tubes—running into one another, and divided by a slender membrane, not more than half a line in thickness: over the whole surface, both within and without, are spread innumerable pores, the mouths of which are closed with capillary—cottony—fibres in converging radii from the circumference to the centre of each pore; these when seen under the power of a common lens, have a dense downy appearance.

THE height of the specimen, from which this description is taken, is 37 inches, and something larger than one presented to the Asiatic Society by JOHN PALMER, Esq.

IN an Essay on *British Sponges*, by the late GEORGE MONTAGU, Esq. printed in the 2d volume of the *Wernerian Society's Transactions*, is described—“*Spongia Scypha*”—which bears some resemblance to the specimen from which the plate annexed was taken, but it is diminutive in all its parts, when compared to this Indian species.